

REMARKS

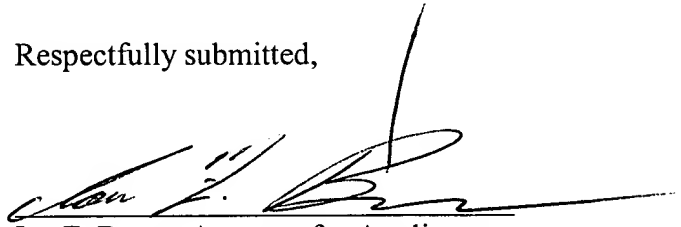
Please enter this amendment prior to initial examination on the merits. By this amendment, the Abstract and Specification have been amended, claims 5-21 have been deleted, and new claims 22-40 have been added. No new matter is believed added.

5 The Specification and Abstract have been amended to correct some minor typographical errors. With respect to the claims, claims 5-21 have been cancelled and claims 22-40 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that the above revisions are made solely for the purposes of expediting the patent application process. Moreover, Applicants further submit that no claims have been narrowed for reasons relating to the statutory requirements for patentability.

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15 Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicants' attorney, Ian F. Burns, at (775) 826-6160.

20 Respectfully submitted,


Ian F. Burns, Attorney for Applicants
Registration Number: 33,297

“Version with markings to show changes made.”

In the Abstract:

5 The abstract has been replaced with the following abstract:

-- A modular printer system comprising a support frame, a chassis, a media holder, and a printer assembly. The support ~~from~~ frame supports the other components and may be attached to other devices. The chassis is slidably attached to the support frame so that it may be at least
10 partially removed from the support frame thereby exposing components attached to the chassis. The chassis is adapted to hold the media holder and the printer assembly. The media holder holds media that may be printed on by the printer assembly. The printer assembly may be removed from the chassis to service the printer assembly and give full access to the media path. The printer assembly comprises a printer for printing on the media and a controller for
15 controlling the printer and communicating with other devices. --

In the Specification:

20 Paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19, has been amended as follows:

--Printers are now widely used to print various kinds of information bearing objects. For example, printers are used to print vouchers, tickets, coupons, receipts, and game tokens. In many of these applications it is necessary to place printers in small, ~~in~~ inaccessible spaces. For
25 example, if a printer is used in a gaming device, the printer must occupy a minimum amount of space so that it does not interfere with the operation of other devices. In this application it is also important that a printer occupy a minimum amount of space on the front of the machine so that the space can be used to present information or entertaining graphics to the user. --

30 Paragraph beginning on page 5, line 5, has been amended as follows:

-- Figure 11 is substantially a an isometric view of the printer system of the present invention in use with a device having a secure compartment. --

Paragraph beginning on page 6, line 15 has been amended as follows:

5 -- Media 12 may also comprises chamfered corners 64 at each line 52. When an individual voucher is removed from media 12, it has a chamfer 64 on each of its corners. Chamfers 64 allow individual vouchers to be inserted more easily into other equipment, such as a voucher reader or validator, and it allows media 12 to be more easily threaded into system 10. Chamfers 64 may also be used with a sensor to detect the position of lines 52. This may be used
10 to accurately position media 12 and to ensure that information for a particular voucher is being printed entirely on that voucher. The chamfers may be formed in a number of shapes. For example, the chamfers may be single angular lines, multiple angular lines, curves, or other corner treatments. Media 12 may be made by a number of different manufacturers including Lottery Impressions, Inc. of Waterford, Michigan.--

15 Paragraph beginning on page 8, line 5, has been amended as follows:

-- As media 12 is advanced, it is fed underneath a tear bar 14 and controller 18 through opening 20. One or more guides 21 and 27 may be provided for guiding media 12 along this path. Opening 20 is the front of the machine where media 12 is presented to a user. Media 12 is
20 advanced so that line 52 is positioned next to tear bar 14. In the preferred embodiment, tear bar 14 is positioned a predetermined distance from opening 20 so that approximately one-half inch of media 12 is advanced past the opening. It has been found that presenting approximately one-half inch of media 12 to a user substantially reduces the likelihood that a user will prematurely

grasp and pull the media. This reduces the chance that a voucher will be printed incorrectly due to slippage and/or acceleration. --

Paragraph beginning on page 9, line 11 has been amended as follows:

5 --Turning now to figures 3, and 4, tear bar 14 is provided for assisting the separation of a voucher from media 12. Tear bar 14 comprises a first side portion 35, a second side portion 36 and a central portion 38. First side portion 35 is adapted to abut surface 60 adjacent to first side 56. Second side portion 36 may is adapted to abut surface 60 adjacent to second side 58. Center portion 38 is located between first and second side portions 35 and 36 and it is adapted to abut
10 surface 60 at center portion 62. In the preferred embodiment, the three groups of three bridges 54 roughly correspond to the positions of first side portion 35, second side portion 36, and center portion 38. Thus, when a pulling force is applied by a user to media 12, first and second side portions 35 and 36 and center portion 38 provide apply friction and stress ~~is applied~~ to bridges 54. --

15 Paragraph beginning on page 9, line 20, has been amended as follows:

20 -- First side portion 35 may be provided with tapered surfaces so that its height or thickness decreases as the portion is traversed from the first side towards the center of tear bar 14. Similarly, second side portions 35 may be provided with tapered surfaces so that its height or thickness decreases as the portion is traversed from the second side towards the center of tear bar 14. This configuration tends to concentrate stress on a single outer bridge 54 rather than a plurality of bridges when a pulling force is applied. When stress is concentrated on a single bridge 54, the bridge tends to break more quickly and cleanly. Once the outer most bridge 54 breaks, stress is transferred to the next bridge until it breaks. This configuration also works well

when users ~~who~~ produce a torque by pulling on a corner of media 12 because the torque tends to concentrate the stress even more on an outer bridge 54.--

Paragraph beginning on page 12, line 3, has been amended as follows:

5 --As seen in figure 11, printer assembly 108 may be attached to chassis 104 by pin 130 and groove 132. Pin 130 engages groove 132 and the groove guides assembly 108 down into its proper position. A locking mechanism 134, such a spring biased pin may engage hole 136 to lock printer assembly 108 into chassis 104. Cable 138 may be used to transmit electrical power to printer assembly 108 from support frame 102. A connector 142 may be provided on support
10 frame 102 for receiving power (see figure 8). Cable 136 may be used to transmit and receive communication signals to other devices. Connectors 140 on support ~~from~~ frame 102 may be used to interface with other devices (see figure 8).—

Paragraph beginning on page 12, line 17, has been amended as follows:

15 -- An advantage of system 100 is to fully expose the path of media 12. By removing of printer assembly 108 from chassis 104, a technician can see the entire path of media. Thus, the technician can easily clear jams and remove debris from the media path. --